

August 19, 1999

Antibiotics in Livestock Feed

Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

10/14/99 10:22 AM

Dear Commissioner Henney;

I urge you to ban the use of antibiotics as livestock growth promoters.

The unfortunate increase in the development of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in this country has lead to an increase in the use of antibiotics to fatten livestock, especially hogs and poultry.

I understand that of the 25,000 tons of antibiotics produced in the U.S. every year, 40% is given to livestock, with most of that (80%) used to promote growth.

There is a significant concern about the over-use of antibiotics in the U.S. Doctors are finding an increasing number of cases in which antibiotics are no longer curing diseases.

In 1997, the World Health Organization called for a ban on using antibiotics to fatten livestock. The CDC and other public health organizations have subsequently done likewise. The European Union has banned the addition of human-use antibiotics to animal feed.

The livestock industry and drug companies have stopped previous efforts to ban antibiotics as feed additives to fatten livestock.

But the public interest should prevail. Please ban the use of medically useful antibiotics as growth promoters.

Sincerely,

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